



To: Members of the House Energy Policy Committee

From: Joshua Lunger, Director of Government Affairs

Subject: Support Waste-to-Energy

Date: May 6, 2015

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On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and our 2,500 members, we encourage you to support Waste-to-Energy generation by voting "Yes" on HB 4297.

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facilities offer 24/7 generation of renewable energy through a safe, technologically-advanced means of waste disposal while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting recycling through the recovery of metals.

In Grand Rapids, we see the benefits of this process through the Kent County WTE facility. The County-owned facility is the primary solid waste disposal facility for six area cities. The WTE facility processes 625 tons of municipal solid waste daily. Over 2.16 billion kilowatt hours of electricity have been sold to the power grid in downtown Grand Rapids and nearly 115,000 tons of ferrous metal have been recycled.

Approximately 25% of the volume of solid waste generated in the County is utilized to produce electricity and steam. Because of the WTE facility, the waste ash sent to the landfill is reduced 90% by volume and 77% by weight. The ash is disposed of in a separate monofill of the South Kent landfill that incorporates strict State-mandated environmental standards.

We believe removing unnecessary burdens on the appropriate use of solid waste as a clean energy source will help provide Michigan with an important source of energy and a cleaner, more sustainable alternative to landfills.

We urge you to support HB 4297 and the removal of these barriers.